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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 20 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letters dated 12 November 1997 (A/52/684-S/1997/897) and 4 November 1997 (A/52/569-S/1997/852), I have the honour to protest strongly the illegal Turkish actions of increasing its occupation forces with new military equipment and men as per the attached list. According to our information, after the termination of the Turkish military exercise "Toros 1997", illegally held in the occupied part of Cyprus, Turkey has not withdrawn the additional equipment and men brought in under the pretext of that exercise.

These actions constitute a violation of repeated General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and are in complete disregard of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, they seriously affect the credibility of the Security Council, whose resolutions provide for the withdrawal of the occupation troops. These actions further escalate the tension in the island, raising serious questions concerning the true aims and intentions of Turkey towards Cyprus.

I should also like, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to protest strongly the participation of a high-level Turkish delegation, headed by the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Bulent Ecevit, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ismail Cem, at the "celebrations" marking the fourteenth anniversary of the illegal declaration of the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", in the occupied part of Cyprus.

This action, in our view, is an insult to the United Nations since Security Council resolutions categorically condemned the declaration of the purported secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus, considered such declaration as

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legally invalid and called for its withdrawal and upon all States not to recognize any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus (Council resolution 541 (1983) of 18 November 1983). The Security Council further condemned all subsequent secessionist actions and reiterated its call upon all States not to recognize the purported state of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" set up by secessionist acts and called upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity (Council resolution 550 (1984) of 11 May 1984).

While strongly protesting these actions on the part of the Turkish Government, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus requests that all urgent and necessary measures be taken so that Turkey abandons its intransigent position and complies with the will of the international community. In this context, we believe that it is time the Security Council examines alternative ways and means to promote the implementation of its resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT BROUGHT INTO THE OCCUPIED AREA

24 September

Eight automatic firearms 155 klm (type M-52TS)

14 October

Twenty-eight advanced armoured personnel carriages (AAPC) type M113

16 October

Twelve mobile artillery units (M110, 203 mm)

23 October

Seventeen M48A5T2 tanks

25 October

Seventeen M48AT2 tanks

On 10 and 11 November 1997, a number of transport and tank landing ships docked at Famagusta port. According to reliable information, new weaponry was unloaded.

During the above-mentioned period, about 3,000 troops of the Turkish army, including special commando forces, arrived in the occupied areas. A relevant amount of ammunition was also delivered, along with more than 200 auxiliary vehicles (jeeps, trucks).